(ङ) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) मौजूदा पारिस्थिति की कृतिक बलों में कर्मचारियों की स्वीकृत संख्या निम्न प्रकार है :—

उत्तर प्रदेश	— 243
राजस्थान	— 668
जम्मू व कश्मीर	— 148
योग :	1059

(ख) इन पारिस्थितिकी कृतिक बलों में स्थानीय क्षेत्रों के 18—24 वर्ष की आयु के भूतपूर्व सैनिक कार्मिकों को नियुक्त किया जाता है ।

(ग) इन पारिस्थितिकी कृतिक बल रक्षा मुख्यालय और प्रादेशिक सेना निदेशालय के माध्यम से रक्षा मन्त्रालय के सीधे नियंत्रण में कार्य करते हैं । पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय, जोकि कार्यक्रम को स्वीकृति प्रदान करता है और कार्यान्वयन की अनुवीक्षा करता है की प्लान योजना में धनराशि प्रदान की जा रही है ।

(घ) और (ङ) पारिस्थितिकी कृतिक बलों को समाप्त किए जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है । तथापि, लागत प्रभाविकता को सुनिश्चित करने के विचार से यह निर्णय लिया गया है कि चार माह की अवधि के लिए जबकि कार्य की अधिकता नहीं होती, कृतिक बलों के कुल कर्मचारियों में से 90 प्रतिशत कर्मचारियों को कार्य से मुक्त कर दिया जाए ।

Factories causing Water Pollution in Gujarat

3598. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that drinking water is getting poluted due to several factories in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof in connection with the southern parts of Gujarat; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government against these factories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) :

(a) and (b) According to the Gujarat Pollution Control Board there is no report regarding drinking water pollution due to factories in Gujarat. The majority of factories in Southern part of Gujarat are located in the industrial estates developed by the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation. Effluents from these industries are being discharged into estuaries and not into the sources of drinking water.

(c) The Gujarat Pollution Control Board is monitoring all polluting industries and has directed them to comply with the prescribed standards within a time-frame. Legal action has been initiated against the industries not complying with the directive.

Trade in Coral in the Southern Part of the Country

3599. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a clandestine trade in Coral is going on in the southern part of the country; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Governntent to check this trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Corals are found in the coastal waters. With a view to preserve the coastal stretches alongwith the natural environment, the Government of India has notified the coastal stretches in the country as Coastal Regulation Zones, under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. As a result, there are restrictions on activities in the notified zones, which include removal and use of corals and sand from the beaches and coas-

tal waters, dredging and under water blasting in and around coral formations, etc.

Certain coral-rich areas have also been declared as Marine National Parks by the concerned State Governments. These are the Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu, the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat, Wandoor in Andaman Islands. The State Governments are also intensifying patrolling, prevention and detection measures and persuading the concerned industry to stop the use of corals for construction and other purposes.

Wild Life Sanctuary in Assam

3600. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orang Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam is facing severe danger due to allotment of lands; and

(b) if so, what measures are being taken to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No Sir. No such report has been received from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Assam.

(b) Does not arise.

Ecological Imbalance

3601. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the likely ecological imbalance in the area due to the Piparwar Open Cast Coal Mine Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) The Environment Management Plan prepared by the Project Authorities indicates that the proposed coal mine project is not likely to cause any significant ecological imbalance provided implementation of the measures suggested therein is ensured.

Ever Green Forests of Western Ghats

3602. SHRI IQBAL SINGH :

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that every year five per cent of the ever green forsts of Western Ghats are being destroyed due to felling of forests;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the detailed vegetation maps of Western Ghats being developed by the scientists in Pondicherry;

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon;

(d) whether Government conducted any survey into the forest destruction there; if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the ever green forests of Western Ghats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) No. Sir. The comparison of two assessments of vegetation cover based on satellite imageries for the period 1985-87 and 1987-89, shows no significant decrease in the forest cover of the States comprising Western Ghats;

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) The steps taken to protect ever green forests of Western Ghats are :

(i) Enactment and strict implementation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(ii) Assisting State Governments and providing infrastructure for implementation of Central and State Forest Laws.

(iii) Planning Commission makes special provision for the Western Ghat areas under the Scheme "Integrated Development of Western Ghats".